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Agenda item 70 (a)
Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama: draft resolution

Emergency humanitarian assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama

The General Assembly,

Recalling all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on emergency humanitarian assistance,

Deeply disturbed by the loss of life that has been a cause of grief for so many families in Central America and by the great number of persons affected by tropical depression E-12 in the Pacific Ocean and the heavy rains that fell in Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama from 10 to 19 October 2011,

Being aware of the tremendous material damage caused to crops, housing, basic infrastructure and tourist and other areas, which, inter alia, poses a severe threat to the food security of the people of Central America, in particular the poorest families, and of the adverse effects on economic activity and trade in the isthmus,

Also being aware that geography of the Central American countries makes them especially vulnerable to the adverse effects of meteorological phenomena associated with climate change and other factors, which in recent years have given rise to new risk scenarios, plunging the most vulnerable populations deeper into poverty and undermining efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and promote more sustainable development for the benefit of the peoples of Central America,

Recognizing the efforts by the Central American Governments to reduce human losses and provide speedy assistance to the stricken population,

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Considering the Comalapa Declaration issued by the special summit meeting of Heads of State and Government of the countries belonging to the Central American Integration System, held in San Salvador on 25 October 2011,

Also considering that an enormous effort is needed to rebuild the stricken areas and to mitigate the serious situation created by this natural disaster, which produced the heaviest rains ever seen in the history of Central America falling over nine successive days, twice as much rain as fell during Hurricane Mitch in 1998, and that this effort will require the broad, coordinated and sustained support of the international community,

1. *Expresses* its solidarity with and support for the Governments and peoples of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama;

2. *Extends its thanks* to the members of the international community that have already provided timely assistance for rescue and aid efforts targeted to the stricken populations, especially the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat and the United Nations Development Programme;

3. *Appeals* to all Member States and all organs and agencies of the United Nations system, as well as the international financial and development institutions, to cooperate immediately and expeditiously with Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama in their relief, rehabilitation and humanitarian assistance efforts and in rebuilding the region;

4. *Requests* the relevant organizations and organs of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations to increase their support and assistance for national and regional capacity-building in the areas of natural disaster preparedness, prevention and mitigation and risk management in the countries concerned and in the specialized institution of the Central American Integration System, the Coordination Centre for Natural Disaster Prevention in Central America;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council at the humanitarian affairs segment of its substantive session of 2012, on the implementation of this resolution and progress made in the aid, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in the stricken countries.